

**To:** Zito, Kelly[ZITO.KELLY@EPA.GOV]; Maier, Brent[Maier.Brent@epa.gov]  
**From:** Higuchi, Dean  
**Sent:** Wed 8/12/2015 9:41:00 PM  
**Subject:** RE: Statement from EPA Administrator to Regional Administrators RE: ongoing field work at mines

Noticed we also got this from Rebecca Russo, R8 Congressional and Brent sent out already too, so SOP is when we get something from Robert or HQ in general like this, I'm going to VOCUS out to AZ, NN, and Farmington media, and will coordinate with Brent that it goes to the Congressionals.

Thanks!

Dean Higuchi  
Press Officer/Congressional Liaison/Public Affairs  
US EPA, Region 9, Hawaii Office  
higuchi.dean@epa.gov  
808-541-2711

**From:** Zito, Kelly  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 12, 2015 11:15 AM  
**To:** Higuchi, Dean; Maier, Brent  
**Subject:** RE: Statement from EPA Administrator to Regional Administrators RE: ongoing field work at mines

Can you guys make sure you're on the correct list to get these?

I can't funnel all of them to you, and I will be out of the office tomorrow and Friday.

**From:** Higuchi, Dean  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 12, 2015 2:11 PM  
**To:** Zito, Kelly; Maier, Brent  
**Subject:** RE: Statement from EPA Administrator to Regional Administrators RE: ongoing field work at mines

Will VOCUS to AZ, NN and Farmington media lists.

Thanks!

Dean Higuchi

Press Officer/Congressional Liaison/Public Affairs

US EPA, Region 9, Hawaii Office

[higuchi.dean@epa.gov](mailto:higuchi.dean@epa.gov)

808-541-2711

**From:** Zito, Kelly  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 12, 2015 11:10 AM  
**To:** Maier, Brent; Higuchi, Dean  
**Subject:** Fwd: Statement from EPA Administrator to Regional Administrators RE: ongoing field work at mines

Can you guys send out?

Thanks-

Kelly

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** EPA Media Relations <[noreply-subscriptions@epa.gov](mailto:noreply-subscriptions@epa.gov)>  
**Date:** August 12, 2015 at 2:00:13 PM PDT  
**To:** <[zito.kelly@epa.gov](mailto:zito.kelly@epa.gov)>  
**Subject: Statement from EPA Administrator to Regional Administrators RE: ongoing field work at mines**

Contact:

[press@epa.gov](mailto:press@epa.gov) or 970-812-3351

## **Statement from EPA Administrator to Regional Administrators RE: ongoing field work at mines**

EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy today sent the below directive to Regional Administrators regarding ongoing field work at mines:

"While we continue to investigate the root causes of last week's release of mining waste at the Gold King Mine in Colorado, we are instructing our Regions to immediately cease any field investigation work at mines including tailings facilities, unless there is imminent risk in a specific case. We are in the process of initiating an independent assessment by a sister federal agency or another external entity to examine the factors that led to last week's incident. Based on the outcome from that assessment, we will determine what actions may be necessary to avoid similar incidents at other sites. While we stand down on existing field investigations and assessments at these mining sites, we also are instructing our Regions to identify existing sites with similarities to the Gold King Mine site and to identify any immediate threats and consider appropriate response actions."

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